

UTILITIES DIVISION[199]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 17A.4, 476.1, and 476.2 and chapter 478, the Utilities Board (Board) gives notice that on November 24, 2009, the Board issued an order in Docket No. RMU-2009-0004, In re: Amendments to Outage Notification Rules for Electric Utilities [199 IAC 20.18 and 20.19], "Order Adopting Amendments." The Board is adopting amendments to 199 IAC 20.18 and 20.19 to update the requirements for electric utilities to notify the Board when there is a loss of electric service to customers that meets certain criteria. This proceeding was initiated by an order issued May 12, 2009. Notice of Intended Action on the proposed amendments was published in IAB Vol. XXXI, No. 25 (6/3/09) p. 2672, as **ARC 7820B**.

Written comments concerning the proposed amendments were filed by MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican), the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), and Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL).

On July 23, 2009, the Board issued an order canceling the oral presentation set for July 28, 2009. The Board stated that it would reschedule the oral presentation in a later order. On July 31, 2009, the Board issued an order rescheduling the oral presentation for August 13, 2009. The oral presentation was held as scheduled and MidAmerican, IPL, IAEC, and the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice appeared and made oral comments.

Based upon the written and oral comments, the Board is adopting the proposed amendments with several revisions. The most significant revisions eliminate the proposed 30-day reporting requirement for major events in subrule 20.18(6) and allow for the use of an outage threshold of 75 percent within a municipality to meet the criterion of the more general requirement of "substantially all" of a municipality in paragraph 19.2(1)"a." In addition, the Board decided to adopt the general criteria in paragraph 20.19(1)"e" requiring a utility to notify the Board about an outage of more than two hours at a significant public health or safety facility. In the order, the Board stated that health and safety facilities such as hospitals, fire stations, and municipal water systems would meet this criterion. The Board also indicated that each utility should use its best judgment in deciding when the Board should be notified and that there would be no penalty associated with the decision made by the utility.

The order adopting the amendments can be found on the Board's electronic filing system Web site at <http://efs.iowa.gov>.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.4, 476.1, and 476.2 and chapter 478.

These amendments will become effective on January 20, 2010.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 20.18(6) as follows:

20.18(6) Notification of major events. Notification ~~and reporting~~ of major events as defined in subrule 20.18(4) shall comply with the requirements of rule 199—20.19(476,478).

ITEM 2. Amend rule 199—20.19(476,478) as follows:

199—20.19(476,478) Notification and reporting of outages.

20.19(1) Notification. The notification requirements in subrules 20.19(1) and 20.19(2) are for the timely collection of electric outage information that may be useful to emergency management agencies in providing for the welfare of individual Iowa citizens. Each electric utility shall notify the board of any when it becomes apparent that an outage that results, or is expected to result, in the following may result in a loss of service for more than two hours and the outage meets one of the following criteria:

a. Loss For all utilities, loss of service for more than two hours to substantially all of a municipality, including the surrounding area served by the same utility. A utility may use loss of service to 75 percent

or more of customers within a municipality, including the surrounding area served by the utility, to meet this criterion;

~~b. Loss~~ For utilities with 50,000 or more customers, loss of service for more than two hours to 20 percent of the customers in a utility's established zone or loss of service to more than 5,000 customers in a metropolitan area, whichever is less;

~~c. Loss of service for more than two hours to more than 3,600 customers in a metropolitan area~~ For utilities with more than 4,000 customers and fewer than 50,000 customers, loss of service for more than two hours to 25 percent or more of the utility's customers;

~~d. No change.~~

~~e. Any other outage considered significant by the electric utility. This includes loss of service for more than two hours to significant public health and safety facilities known to the utility at the time of the notification, even when the outage does not meet the criteria in paragraphs 20.19(1) "a" through "d."~~

20.19(2) Information required.

~~a. Notice~~ Notification shall be provided as soon as the utility learns of the outage, or as soon as practical thereafter, regarding outages that meet the requirements of subrule 20.19(1) by calling notifying the board duty officer by E-mail at iubdutyofficer@iub.state.ia.us or by telephone at 515-745-2332. ~~The caller shall leave a call-back number for a person who can provide~~ Notification shall be made at the earliest possible time after it is determined the event may be reportable and should include the following information, as available:

(1) The general nature or cause of the outage;

(2) No change.

(3) The approximate number of customers that have experienced a loss of electric service as a result of the outage;

(4) The ~~estimated~~ time ~~until~~ when service ~~will~~ is estimated to be restored; and

(5) No change.

The notice should be supplemented as more complete or accurate information is available.

~~b. The electric utility shall provide updates to the board as new or additional information becomes available until all service is restored. The utility shall provide to the board updates of the estimated time when service will be restored to all customers able to receive service or of significant changed circumstances, unless service is restored within one hour of the time initially estimated.~~

20.19(3) Outage report. Each electric utility shall submit a report to the board within 30 days after the customers affected by the outage reported under subrule 20.19(1) have regained service. The report shall include the following:

~~a. A description of the circumstances that caused the outage;~~

~~b. The total number of customers out of service during the outage;~~

~~c. The longest customer interruption;~~

~~d. The damage cost estimates to the electric utility's facilities; and~~

~~e. The number of people used to restore service.~~

[Filed 11/24/09, effective 1/20/10]

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 12/16/09.